

Please add new claims 67-74 as follows:

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67. (Newly added ) A gel having a pH between 6 and 8, wherein said gel comprises bis(2-hydroxyethyl) iminotris (hydroxymethyl) methane.
68. (Newly added ) The gel of claim 67, wherein said gel is precast.
69. (Newly added ) The gel of claim 67, wherein said gel comprises agarose.
- B2 70. (Newly added ) The gel of claim 67, wherein said gel comprises polyacrylamide.
71. (Newly added ) The gel of claim 67, said gel having a shelf life that is greater than or equal to one month when said gel is stored under refrigeration.
72. (Newly added ) The gel of claim 67, wherein said pH is based on titration with hydrochloric acid.
73. (Newly added ) The gel of claim 67, wherein said gel has a pH of between 6.5 and 7.5.
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